
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2295

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Slatter, Fey, McBride, Dolan, Macri, and Doglio)

READ FIRST TIME 01/22/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to encouraging the use of electric or hybrid-
2 electric aircraft for regional air travel; amending RCW 47.68.070;
3 adding new sections to chapter 47.68 RCW; creating new sections; and
4 providing an expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the
7 prospect of transitioning from aircraft powered by burning fuel to
8 aircraft powered at least partially by electrical propulsion promises
9 a variety of economic, social, and environmental benefits, including:

10 (a) Reduced fuel costs that make expanded commercial service of
11 smaller regional airports economically viable;

12 (b) Support for the type of dispersed and rural economic
13 development already envisioned elsewhere in state policy, including
14 through the state's participation in the western regional short-haul
15 air transportation compact under chapter 81.96 RCW or similar types
16 of multistate collaborative forums that currently exist through the
17 northwest region national association of state aviation officials;

18 (c) Reduced traffic on state roads as a result of short-haul
19 flights becoming price competitive with driving;

1 (d) A redistribution of air traffic from overly busy hubs to
2 airports dispersed across the state that would otherwise operate
3 below capacity;

4 (e) Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from aircraft fuel use; and

5 (f) Reduced impacts on communities located adjacent to busy
6 airport hubs from decreases in aircraft noise and emissions of
7 conventional air pollutants.

8 (2) Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to continue
9 Washington's leading role in the aerospace industry by encouraging
10 the development and adoption of aircraft whose propulsion is fully or
11 partially powered by electricity.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.68
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) To support realization of the public benefits described in
15 section 1 of this act, the department shall solicit input from the
16 work group established in section 3 of this act and recommend goals
17 for encouraging the use of electric or hybrid-electric aircraft in
18 commercial air travel in Washington state to the legislature for
19 adoption. The recommended goals shall consider the interests of
20 industry and airports, and shall focus on maximizing growth in
21 Washington state regional commercial air service travel. The
22 department, in conjunction with the work group, shall develop and
23 recommend specific, measurable goals for the years 2030, 2040, and
24 2050, that reflect progressive and substantial increases in the
25 utilization of electric and hybrid-electric commercial aircraft.

26 (2) By January 1, 2025, and every two years thereafter, the
27 department must submit a report to the legislature consistent with
28 RCW 43.01.036 describing the state's progress towards achieving goals
29 adopted by the legislature as described in subsection (1) of this
30 section.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.68
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 (1)(a) The department must convene a work group to analyze the
34 state of the electrically powered aircraft industry and current
35 infrastructure to develop and recommend goals as described in section
36 1 of this act and to develop a sustainable plan for achieving the
37 goals. The chair of the work group may be a consultant specializing
38 in aeronautics, and the work group must include representation from

1 the electric aircraft industry, the aircraft manufacturing industry,
2 the electric utility districts, the battery industry, the department
3 of commerce, the department of transportation aviation division, the
4 airline pilots association, a primary airport representing an airport
5 association, and the airline industry. The work group may include
6 other members at the discretion of the department.

7 (b) The work group must consider, at a minimum, and make
8 recommendations on the feasibility of electric or hybrid-electric
9 flight given federal aviation administration certification
10 requirements, the rate at which battery technology is advancing, the
11 necessary infrastructure requirements and capacity impacts at primary
12 airports, whether industry incentives are required and feasible,
13 possible public-private partnerships, impacts to revenues generated
14 from aviation fuel sales, educational requirements for maintaining
15 electric or hybrid-electric powered aircraft, whether or not
16 additional homeland security checkpoints would be required, the
17 public perception of the technology, cost comparison between the use
18 of fossil fuels versus electric or hybrid-electric engines in
19 powering aircraft, emissions reduction potential, and policies needed
20 to facilitate electric or hybrid-electric powered aircraft use for
21 commercial air travel in Washington state. The work group must submit
22 a report with its findings, recommended goals, and recommended plan
23 for achieving those goals to the transportation committees of the
24 legislature by December 1, 2019. The chair of the work group must
25 provide an interim report to the transportation committees of the
26 legislature by December 1, 2018.

27 (2) This section expires July 1, 2020.

28 **Sec. 4.** RCW 47.68.070 and 1984 c 7 s 344 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 The department has general supervision over aeronautics within
31 this state. It is empowered and directed to encourage, foster, and
32 assist in the development and sustainment of aeronautics in this
33 state, including aeronautics involving electrically powered aircraft,
34 and to encourage the establishment of airports and air navigation
35 facilities. It shall cooperate with and assist the federal
36 government, the municipalities of this state, and other persons in
37 the development of aeronautics, including aeronautics involving
38 electrically powered aircraft, and shall seek to coordinate the
39 aeronautical activities of these bodies and persons. Municipalities

1 are authorized to cooperate with the department in the development of
2 aeronautics and aeronautical facilities in this state.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act may be known and cited as the
4 linking communities by encouraging regional aircraft electrification
5 act or known and cited as the LINK-AIR act.

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